

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 and bridging over to page 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

AD Another related technology, from [Novelsoft (<http://www.novelsoft.ch/sms-center/e/techndet.html>)] Novelsoft's website, enables easy implementation and operation of ones own SMS information services with very little effort. Accordingly, a customer is able to access his/her information service by sending a simple keyword via SMS to their server. A typical SMS information request occurs as follows: "your customer sends an SMS message with a specific keyword to our global SMS access number +41 79 4002030." However, this technology does not allow management of messages on individual access numbers or private phone numbers.

Current Ericsson technology

[(http://www.ericsson.com/review/2000_04/files/2000047.pdf)] Information available from Ericsson's website offers SMS management possibilities. However this technology is a heavy, industrial grade system for information services such as SMS-based. It serves to highlight the value of easy, small-grades solutions for the small business/private subscriber. However it does not provide a simple and reasonable solution to SMS message management. In brief, Ericsson's solution allows one to buy a platform and provide SMS information services. This solution does not enable end users to configure their own services, on the service provider's platform (without buying their own platform), but using their own phone number (as opposed to say Novelsoft).

[ICQ (www.icq.com)] Information from ICQ's website (Instant Messaging) has message management features that can be pre-configured to filter, reply etc. The ICQ software enables a

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user to instruct his or her desktop application to automatically reply to incoming messages, with customized response messages, such as, "taking a break for half an hour", "in a meeting" etc. In this way, ICQ has similar functionality to conventional e-mail applications (such as Outlook and Exchange). These functions are currently available for messages sent to smart end terminals, such as e-mail servers and ICQ terminals, which can implement auto-replies. This is opposed to SMS, that is designed for messages sent via a transparent medium to a stupid end terminal.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 3 and bridging over to page 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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In a further embodiment of the present invention, an MR (12) sets up alternative handling instructions (AHI) (1010) on an SAHS (16), as can be seen in figure 2. These AHI (1010) may include, for instance, forwarding the received SMS messages to another address, deletion of the accumulated undelivered messages (due to the MR being unavailable to the network or having a full inbox on the handset) in an SMSC (14), saving particular messages in personalized folders (such as saving all messages from a superior in a folder marked "urgent"), filtering instructions about which SMS messages to accept, which to reject and what to do with them (for example, rejecting all SMS messages that are 3 days old, or all SMS messages from a particular source) etc. An SAHS (16) may also be set up as a part of an SMSC (14), or may be implemented jointly with an ARMS (18), in a common software element. According to this embodiment, once an MR (12) has set up his or her personal preferences, via a web-based provisioning interface, for example, on an SAHS (16), the SMS messaging process is executed as follows: An MS (10) sends an SMS message to an MR (12) (1020). In the cases where the MR (12) is not available, or

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chooses to filter incoming messages, the SMSC (14) intercepts the message and queries (1025) an SAHS (16) to determine whether there is an Alternative Handling Instruction (AHI). If there is no AHI, the SMSC (14) passes on the message directly to the MR (12). If there is one AHI, the SAHS (16) sends that AHI to the SMSC (14) (1030). If there is more than one AHI, the SMSC (14) sends the ARMS (18) the original message sent by the MS (10), and the ARMS (18) uses the message contents as a key to choose the appropriate AHI, and subsequently returns the appropriate AHI to the SMSC (14) (1040). The service, for example, may be limited to human MS. In this example, only Mobile-Originated SMS messages may receive the auto-reply, while machine-originated SMS messages (such as voicemail notification messages) may not receive an Auto-reply. Messages are commonly identifiable by the originating phone number, which is thus utilized for filtering purposes. In this and other ways, subscribers may manage and filter SMS messages, according to pre-configured personalized alternative handling instructions. The SMSC (14) executes the AHI accordingly. Examples of such executions include customized forwarding of messages to individuals and/or groups, deleting messages, storing messages and filtering messages according to chosen criteria. The SMSC (14) may or may not send the original message to the MR (12), depending on the setup of the AHIs and/or ARMs.
